

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-19 are presented for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to, since the title was not considered descriptive and claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC 102 on Pla et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,210).

By this amendment, a new title has been provided, claim 1 has been amended to correct a possible §112 problem and claims 18 and 19, which describe the invention in slightly different terms, have been added.

Pla et al discloses a magnetic resonance device having a low-noise sub-assembly for a magnetic resonance imaging scanner. For noise prevention, the gradient coil assembly, which typically produces the noise by vibration, is placed within an enclosure 12 containing a vacuum (see column 2, lines 28-33). Locating the gradient coil assembly in the vacuum reduces the sound transmission. The gradient coil assembly is generally spaced apart from the enclosure. Another embodiment of Pla et al describes an isolation mount assembly which, together with the gradient coil assembly, has a natural frequency of vibration less than the threshold excitation frequency divided by the square root of two.

Regarding claim 1 of the present application, Pla et al also discloses a magnetic resonance device comprising a hollow and a gradient coil system. The gradient coil system is arranged in the hollow with an interval space between an inner boundary surface of the hollow and an outer boundary surface of the gradient coil system. This is commonly known for many types of magnetic resonance devices. Pla et al does not disclose a flexible hollow body being arranged between the inner boundary surface and the outer boundary surface. In particular, the material 28 filling the cavity in Fig. 1 denotes a sound-absorption material, preferably a loose fiberglass insulation within the enclosure. This material is intended to absorb sound generated by the gradient coil system and it does not seal the interval space between the inner boundary surface and the outer boundary surface, nor is it a hollow and connected to means for adjusting the internal pressure. In addition, claim 1 of the application does not require a vacuum between the inner boundary surface and the outer

boundary surface or inside the hollow body. The internal pressure of the hollow body is only adjusted, preferably increased, to seal this interval space.

Thus, it is submitted that Pla et al, which does show a hollow body, does not teach arranging an inner boundary surface of the magnetic resonance device and the outer boundary surface of the gradient system. The gradient coil system is actually located within the enclosure of the device 12. Furthermore, Pla et al does not disclose the enclosure to be flexible and the interval space between the inner boundary surface and the outer boundary surface to be sealed by the enclosure. The interval space itself is located within the enclosure. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Pla et al does not anticipate the structure of claim 1 or even render it obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, since additional disclosure is necessary to suggest modifying Pla et al to render claim 1 obvious. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-17 are clearly not anticipated or obvious in view of Pla et al and, therefore, these claims are allowable over this reference.

The dependent claims are patentable along with independent claim 1 for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable. In addition, the dependent claims add additional features which are not suggested by Pla et al. For example, claims 7 and 8 require means for adjusting the internal pressure in the hollow body, which is not suggested by Pla et al. Claim 9 recites that the hollow body is constructed of an annular tube, which is not taught nor suggested by Pla et al. Claims 10, 11, 12 and 13 all recite that the device includes an antenna system, which is not suggested nor disclosed by Pla et al. Thus, it is again submitted that claims 1-17 are clearly patentable over the teachings of the prior art and are allowable.

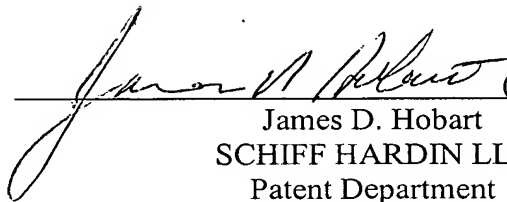
Newly-presented claim 18 recites a hollow having a cylindrical inner boundary surface, a gradient coil system and a cylindrical outer boundary surface, said gradient coil system being arranged in the hollow with the cylindrical interval space between the inner boundary surface of the hollow and the outer boundary surface of the gradient coil system and a flexible, annular hollow tube being arranged at each end of the coil system between the inner boundary surface and the outer boundary surface and being connected to means for adjusting the internal pressure to seal the interval space extending therebetween. It

is submitted that Pla et al neither teaches nor suggests this structure and, therefore, claim 18 is clearly patentable over the prior art and is allowable.

Claim 19 is similar to claim 10 and further recites that the device includes the antenna system, which is not taught by Pla et al. Therefore, claim 19 is also allowable with parent claim 18.

In view of the amendments and explanations contained hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for immediate formal allowance and further reconsideration to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

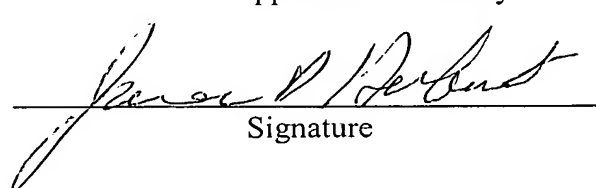


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